

SECRET

OLC 70-0722

8 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Senator Margaret Chase Smith (R., Maine)
and Certain Members of the Staff of the Senate
Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences

1. Today I accompanied Messrs. Carl Duckett and David Brandwein to a briefing of Senator Margaret Chase Smith and several members of the staff of the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences on developments in the Soviet space program. Staff members present were: Messrs. James Gehrig, William Parker, and Craig Voorhees. The meeting was conducted in Senator Smith's office and lasted about an hour and 15 minutes.

2. Using briefing boards Messrs. Duckett and Brandwein gave a review of developments in the Soviet space program for the years 1969 and 1970. They discussed problems encountered by the Soviets with the SL-12 booster and covered these other areas:

- a. The Luna 16 shot;
- b. The present Venus probe;
- c. The expected upcoming unmanned lunar probe;
- d. Soviet problems with other large boosters; and
- e. Our expectations that the Soviets will develop a new hydrogen booster in the "80s."

They also discussed the Chinese test center at Shuang-ch'eng-tzu.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

3. Senator Smith listened intently and asked several questions during and after the briefing. One of these concerned the state of the art of Soviet satellite photography in comparison to ours. In responding to this question, Mr. Duckett pointed out that the resolution of our photography was one of our most sensitive secrets. Mr. Gehrig was particularly interested in the relative success of the Soviet space program as compared to that of the U.S. and asked what percentage of the Soviet gross national product went to their space program. Mr. Duckett pointed out the difficulty in making comparisons of this sort since the Soviets did not make a clear-cut distinction between their military and civilian space efforts. He also pointed out that it was difficult for us to come up with any precise figures in rubles although we had been able to make a cost estimate for the Soviet program in U.S. dollar equivalents.

4. At the conclusion of the briefing, Senator Smith expressed her deep appreciation (she passed up a SALT briefing by Gerard Smith, Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, in order to receive our briefing) and lamented the fact that she had not been able to attend one of our briefings for some time (since 25 February 1969). I assured the Senator that we welcomed the opportunity to meet with her whenever she was available.



25X1A

Deputy Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig. - Subj.

1 - FMSAC

1 - Chrono

OLC/GLC:rw (13 Oct 70)

~~SECRET~~